

REPRESENTATIVE DRIEHAUS WELCOMES \$560 MILLION IN JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER FUNDING IN DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL

WASHINGTON, DC—Representative Steve Driehaus today welcomed an announcement that the Fiscal Year 2010 Defense Appropriations Bill includes \$560 million for the Joint Strike Fighter Competitive Engine Program. Rep. Driehaus has led the effort to maintain funding for this program, which saves taxpayer money through increased competition, strengthens our national defense by producing higher quality military equipment, and is tied to hundreds of jobs in southwest Ohio.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense completed its markup of the bill today and the bill is expected on the House floor later this month.

“We know that a competitive engine program gives us a higher quality product at a lower cost to the public, and funding this program is the right thing to do to for our military and for American taxpayers,” said Rep. Driehaus. “At the same time, this program is critically important to our local economy, and this smart investment in our national security is also an investment in jobs and economic growth in greater Cincinnati.”

“We’re going to build thousands of Joint Strike Fighters, and when you look back at problems

we've had in the past with large aircraft procurement programs, you realize why it's absolutely essential to build two different engines. An alternative engine will provide cost savings through competition as well as provide greater reliability down the road in case we have problems with one engine that could potentially ground our entire tactical aircraft fleet. These are two things that obviously Congressman Driehaus understands and why the Subcommittee included \$560 million in this legislation for the program," said subcommittee Chairman John P. Murtha (D-PA).

Representative Driehaus has led a bipartisan effort to maintain the Joint Strike Fighter Competitive Engine Program. Last month [he pushed for reauthorization of the program](#) in the National Defense Authorization Act, and [he spoke on the House floor](#) underscoring the program's fiscal responsibility and benefits to the military. In April, [he was joined by 24 members of Congress](#) urging the President to support the Competitive Engine Program. Joining Rep. Driehaus in his support of the program were Ohio delegation Representatives John Boehner, Jean Schmidt, Steven LaTourette, Robert Latta, Marcia L. Fudge, Steve Austria, Tim Ryan, Charles Wilson, Marcy Kaptur, Michael Turner, Mary Jo Kilroy, Betty Sutton, Zachary Space, John Boccieri, and Patrick J. Tiberi.

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